

## MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

**U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines**

**January 6, 2014**

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.*

### **Black Nazarene Vigil Traffic Information**

The U.S. Embassy wishes to advise U.S. citizens that the area around the Embassy will be extremely congested on Thursday, January 9, 2014 due to the celebration of the Feast Day of the Black Nazarene. The Black Nazarene Festival is expected to attract millions of pilgrims and spectators to Metro Manila beginning late in the evening on January 8th and extending into the morning hours of January 9th.

The Nazarene procession is not scheduled to pass in front of the Embassy. However, the Nazarene procession will include routes within close proximity to the Embassy as millions are expected to gather around Luneta and Rizal parks. Local authorities are scheduled to keep Roxas Boulevard open to traffic on January 9th, and the Embassy will be accessible to vehicular traffic. However, the Embassy expects extreme traffic congestion on Roxas Boulevard in the vicinity of the Embassy. Traffic delays are expected throughout the morning of Thursday, January 9th. Manila authorities expect traffic patterns to return to normal on Thursday afternoon.

We recommend that anyone with business to conduct at the Embassy take this information into account when planning travel to the Embassy.

For up-to-date information regarding this event, please monitor local media.

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The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (+632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at [ACSInfoManila@state.gov](mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov) or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at [www.Travel.State.Gov](http://www.Travel.State.Gov). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). For additional information, refer to ["A Safe Trip Abroad"](#) on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.